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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### ***Watch Your Car Month***

**San Antonio** — Every five minutes, a car is stolen in Texas. More than likely, the driver's valuable possessions, left in the vehicle, have also disappeared. Vehicle-related crimes can be prevented if drivers remember to "Hide Their Belongings. Lock Their Cars. Take Their Keys."

**This July**, during "Watch Your Car" Month, hundreds of law enforcement task force representatives, funded by the Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), will be out in their communities, reminding Texas drivers to take these extra precautions when leaving their vehicles unattended. In 2007, an estimated 95,000 motor vehicles were stolen and about half of those had the keys left in the ignition. Recent statistics from law enforcement officials reported these top three locations from which vehicles were stolen: residences/home (41.6%), parking lot/garage (28.7%) and highway/road/alley (12.2%).

"We cannot stress enough to Texas drivers that they 'Hold the Key' to auto burglary and theft prevention," said Lt. Mike Ritchey, Unit Director for ReACT. "Being aware of the things they can do to prevent these crimes, as well as the anti-theft devices available to protect their vehicles, such as kill switches and VIN-etchings, will help deter thieves and make neighborhoods safer."

Since 1991, motor vehicle theft has been reduced by 59%. For more information on the "Watch Your Car" program and prevention tips, go to [www.txwatchyourcar.com](http://www.txwatchyourcar.com).

#### Top 5 Stolen Vehicles in San Antonio 2007

1. Ford Pickups (F150, F250, & F350)
2. Dodge Ram Pickups
3. Honda Civics
4. Chevrolet/GMC Pickups
5. Acura Integra

#### Top 3 Months for Stolen Vehicle in San Antonio 2007

1. July
2. September
3. August

A Vehicle is Stolen in San Antonio at more than one every hour, or almost 19 per day.

***For Immediate Release***